

# Departments

PRESERVATION RESOURCES

POINT OF VIEW

NCPTT

STATE NEWS

## POINT OF VIEW

### Letters

Dear Editor

Congratulations on the production of a long-awaited issue dedicated to those of us resident behind the "cactus curtain" (*CRM*, Vol. 20, No. 11, 1997). I was really pleased with the issue overall, but profoundly dismayed to see that you did not include cultural resource management activities in the State of California in this issue devoted to Hispanic heritage. Perhaps this oversight was a result of a lack of information about Hispanic heritage preservation in the far western part of the southwest.

I do not speak with authority about all such efforts in the state, but can list some activities in which I have personally participated and those of some of my colleagues:

- The California Department of Parks and Recreation sponsored a Hispanic Heritage Inventory of historical sites within the state parks system which possess Hispanic historical associations, even though some of them are state beaches or campgrounds like the Portola camp sites along Highway One. It is on the World Wide Web as part of the agency. The concept was to increase awareness of such historical connections and prompt increased interpretation at the sites.
- The California Department of Parks and Recreation is involved in a project known as El Camino Real Misionero with the Mexican authorities in Baja California to cooperatively encourage tourism, and improve interpretation and preservation of historic resources of the Hispanic period along the El Camino Real in the Californias.
- The California Mission Studies Association held its annual conference in Loreto, Baja California, to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the missions of the Californias....
- The Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation continues its reconstruction efforts on the Presidio of Santa Barbara with near completion of the *commandancia* and the *torreon*. The Trust recently purchased the Rochin Adobe and is conducting test excavations in the yard. The Trust also purchased the grist and fulling mills complex of Mission Santa Ines in Buellton which they plan to conserve, interpret, and open to the public. The Trust is completing restoration of the Casa de la Guerra in downtown Santa Barbara. The Trust is in contact with the International Earthen Architecture Committee of ICOMOS and is contemplating sponsorship of a Conference on the Conservation of Earthen Architecture, tentatively called Tierra 2000.
- The California Mission Studies Association's initiative to encourage National Historic Landmark status for the missions which warrant it is bearing fruit: Missions Santa Ines and San Juan Capistrano have completed National Landmark applications....
- The Historic Preservation Commission of the City of Monterey received a grant from the NPS National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT) to investigate conserva-

tion methodologies appropriate for the carved stone facade of the Royal Presidio Chapel NHL completed in 1794. The Diocese of Monterey received a grant from the Getty Trust to fund an ongoing Historic Structure Report for it, the only remaining building of the Presidio of Monterey founded in 1770.

- The California Department of Parks and Recreation is about to begin construction of the landscaping, parking lot, and restroom facilities to complete restoration of the 1824 Indian neophyte quarters of Mission Santa Cruz (Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park), the only remaining mission Indian residence quarters in the state.
- Cabrillo College finished a second summer field school at the Presidio of San Francisco directed by NPS archeologist Leo Barker. Students in the Cabrillo Archaeological Technology Program excavated portions of the Presidio Chapel adjacent to the *commandancia*, which is the only remaining building of the Spanish Presidio of San Francisco.
- Jack Williams continues to excavate the site of the Presidio of San Diego owned by the City of San Diego below the Serra Museum....
- NPS-funded earthquake repairs and retrofitting are scheduled to begin at Rancho Camulos: the Home of Ramona, in Ventura, California. Rancho Camulos was the home of Ignacio and Reginaldo del Valle, prominent Mexican Californians who served in the California state legislature. Helen Hunt Jackson visited the site in 1882 and used it as the venue for her novel *Ramona* about the plight of the former

mission Indians of the state. Federal CDBG funds were used to fund design and planning efforts by the County in conjunction with Rancho Camulos Museum.

- Innovative seismic retrofitting techniques that were developed since 1990 by the Getty Conservation Institute's Seismic Adobe Project (GSAP) are being utilized at Rancho Camulos. A final report on the project's findings will soon be available from GCI as well as Guidelines for Planning and Techniques for Designing Seismic Retrofits for Historic Adobe Buildings are being developed. A Survey of Damage to Historic Adobe Buildings after the January 1994 Northridge Earthquake is available from the Getty Conservation Institute.
- Ideas for Mission Indian memorials at the California missions continue to be promulgated by historian-activist Edward Castillo and plans for them are proceeding at some mission sites including Mission Dolores in San Francisco. At Mission Santa Cruz, plans have been made for the campo santo or cemetery (which is currently a parking lot), to be re-enclosed by a reconstructed adobe wall, planted appropriately, and a suitable marker erected.

As California changes demographically and a Hispanic majority is in sight, it is easy to foresee a time when the state's Hispanic cultural heritage preservation will not be overlooked without comment. Californians have an obligation to increase the awareness of the citizens of the state and of the nation of its deep rooted and intertwined Native American and Hispanic cultural legacy. I understand and regret that California's Hispanic cultural heritage is represented only by the Martinez Adobe and the Presidio of San Francisco in the national park system.... Perhaps this is why CRM overlooked the state. However, if CRM is interested in obtaining the names of contacts regarding the

above listed activities, please feel free to contact me.

—Edna E. Kimbro,  
*Architectural conservator  
and historian*

## PRESERVATION RESOURCES

### Reviews

*A New Deal for Southeastern Archaeology* by Edwin A. Lyon, The University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa, 1996.

Reviewed by David G. Anderson, Southeast Archeological Center, National Park Service.

Every archeologist trained in the Southeast during the past half century has heard stories of the vast field projects undertaken during the New Deal. Massive crews consisting of from dozens to hundreds of people were put to work, in some cases excavating and then analyzing the contents of whole mounds, villages, or shell middens. This work was completed under the direction of the few trained archeologists available at the time, and the crop of harried professionals that arose and met the challenge of the era—many of them brash youngsters, self-proclaimed young Turks fresh out of school—went on to dominate American archeology in the half century that followed.

A great many truly remarkable archeologists worked in the southeast during the New Deal, whose names are legendary in American archeology. Until quite recently, many of these figures could be seen occupying principal roles at national archeological meetings, and particularly at the annual meetings of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference, which, like the Society for American Archaeology, was created during the New Deal era, in part to handle communications about the new discoveries that were occurring on an almost daily basis.

Their number has been dwindling each year, however, and all but a few are now gone. Stories about New Deal era excavations are entering the realm of myth and folklore, its practitioners viewed as giants who once walked among us, but who are now all but gone. Future generations will thus no longer have the opportunity to learn from them first hand what life was like during this era.

It is thus not surprising, and indeed quite appropriate, that this book has appeared. New Deal archeology revolutionized our understanding of southeastern archeology, in ways that people now entering or interested in the field could have little hope of grasping without such a synthesis. A major contribution of this volume is that it provides, under one cover, a detailed accounting of what was accomplished, and as importantly, how this work was done. Projects are described as are the people who ran them, as well as some of the trials and tribulations they went through. Superbly documented, the arguments in the text are supported by hundreds of footnotes referencing primary historical documents, many of them letters written back and forth between the principals in this drama. The volume is, accordingly, an absolutely superb piece of historical research. It also offers enjoyable reading. The notes themselves are mercifully placed at the back of the book, so the text can be read and enjoyed as a narrative, without the constant interruption dropping to the bottom of the page to look at the notes can entail. I read the book twice, first checking the footnotes and then straight through ignoring them, and the second reading was far more absorbing; I'd recommend all but the most scholarly of bent to approach the book in the latter fashion.

Sections of the book encompass: (1) Southeastern Archeology before the Depression; (2) The Origin of New Deal Archeology;

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